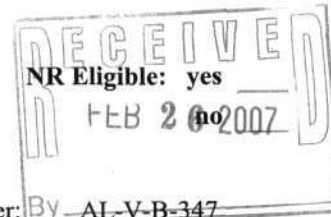


**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**



Property Name: Old Ellerslie Post Office Inventory Number: By AL-V-B-347

Address: Ellerslie Road Historic district: yes ☒ no ☐

City: Ellerslie Zip Code: 21529 County: Allegany

USGS Quadrangle(s): Cumberland

Property Owner: Thomas Hartman Tax Account ID Number: 011254

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 96 Tax Map Number: 0002S

Project: MD 35: Replacement of Bridge No. 1068 Agency: Maryland State Highway Administration

Agency Prepared By: Maryland State Highway Administration

Preparer's Name: Stephanie Foell Date Prepared: 02/05/2007

Documentation is presented in: _____

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes Listed: yes

Site visit by MHT Staff yes ☒ no ☐ Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Architectural Description

The old post office on Ellerslie Road is a modest frame building with a slightly irregular rectangular footprint. It features a gable-front and wing form; the front-gable bay projects slightly from the main plane of the building. The post office is clad in wide clapboards and sits atop a foundation of rock-faced concrete blocks.

The façade of the building, which faces west, contains the off-center main entrance on the front-gable portion. The entrance, which is currently boarded up, is contained in a round-arched opening with a pointed-arch architrave. Windows with four vertical panes are hung in triplicate. The windows have a wood sill, lintel, and muntins. A round-arch vent is located in the apex of the gable. The front-facing ell portion of the façade contains another window identical to the one on the gable portion.

The north elevation of the post office contains an off-center entrance with a wood-frame door. A portion of the door that was previously likely either glazed or screened is now boarded. A wood ARCHTIRAVE surrounds the building. The entrance is reached by two small concrete steps that were poured in a circular pattern.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Jim Tanenbaum
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

3/6/07
Date

3/12/07
Date

200700612

The rear (east) elevation of the post office contains an off-center wood paneled door that is reached by two concrete steps. A window with three vertical panes over a single pane of glass offsets the door. Both the door and the window have wooden surrounds with molded cornices.

The south elevation contains two windows. One is identical to the three-over-one window found on the rear elevation. The other contains three vertical panes, but is smaller than the window of similar configuration found on the façade. Both of these windows also have wooden surrounds with molded cornices.

History

The town of Ellerslie is located in Allegany County, Maryland, approximately 6 miles north of Cumberland and directly south of the Mason-Dixon Line. MD 35 (Ellerslie Road) runs north-south and bisects the neighborhood. The rail line runs parallel to the road. The area is surrounded by mountainous terrain. Although it is close to Cumberland, and there were citizens who commuted to Cumberland for work, making it a suburb of sorts, the town of Ellerslie developed independently with a distinct identity.

The parcel of land that the old post office occupies was purchased by Samuel Tomlinson from his father John Tomlinson in 1816. The tract was known as "Nothing Left." In 1832, John Buchanan purchased a 300-acre portion of the tract that included Ellerslie, which was a rail center on the Pittsburgh, Washington, and Baltimore Railroad (later the Western Maryland Railroad). Ellerslie was a stop on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad westbound local of the Pittsburgh Division in the 1920s. The town was also the location of a small Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) yard and engine house. The PRR connected with the Cumberland and Pennsylvania State Line Branch. Approximately 25 coal cars traveled this line each day, going to Bedford, Huntington or Altoona, providing competition to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

Despite these connections with Cumberland and regional mining, Ellerslie developed primarily because of a local brickworks and pottery and not just as a railroad stop. During the second half of the nineteenth century, Allegany County's iron production industry steadily declined, but by 1875, the Empire Firebrick Company (later renamed the Cumberland Firebrick Works and then the Gardner Brothers' Firebrick Company) was established in Ellerslie and employed several hundred men, providing a livelihood for many of the town's residents. By 1910, the Ellerslie plant's production was rapidly increasing with the manufacture of enameled brick, fancy facing brick, sanitary ware, and pottery. However, owner Andrew Ramsey overextended his business ventures and the company collapsed in March 1929; a Baltimore company assumed control and renamed the enterprise the Ellerslie Pottery Company, but soon the property was sold to a succession of owners no less than eight times, frequently renaming it. The brickworks stopped production in 1952.

Most of the buildings in Ellerslie date from the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first quarter of the twentieth century, which coincides with the time when the brickworks was at its highest production levels. Most buildings are residential, and consist of common house forms found throughout Maryland. These include I-houses, bungalows, front-gabled forms, and a gable-ell cottage, all of which were typical forms for worker housing in western Maryland. Nearly all of the residences have been altered substantially and lack integrity. Several commercial buildings exist within the neighborhood; these buildings have also been altered.

The old post office building in Ellerslie dates to circa 1900 according to historic maps and land records. It is a modest building that served the town, which maintained a distinct identity from Cumberland as an independent community with its own postal delivery. Its location along the rail line through town was likely selected to facilitate mail delivery. Roadway reconfigurations of MD 35 in the 1908 left it in a triangular parcel of land bound by MD 35, Schellsburg Road, and High Pine Court. The old post

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

office was abandoned in 1987, when a new post office building located directly to the south of the original facility was constructed and occupied.

Significance

The Old Ellerslie Post Office is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is not associated with important events in the past and is not eligible under Criterion A. It is not associated with significant people and is not eligible under Criterion B. Although the building is an interesting example of a small rural post office, it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. The property is not eligible under Criterion D; an assessment of archeological potential indicated that the property would not likely yield significant information important in history or prehistory. The integrity of setting has also

Bibliography

Allegany County Land Records. Allegany County Courthouse. Cumberland, Maryland.

Stegamier, Harry, Jr. Allegany County—A History. Parsons, West Virginia: McClain Printing Company, 1976.

Thomas, James and T.J. C. Williams. History of Allegany County, Maryland. Philadelphia: Titsworth and Company, 1923.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

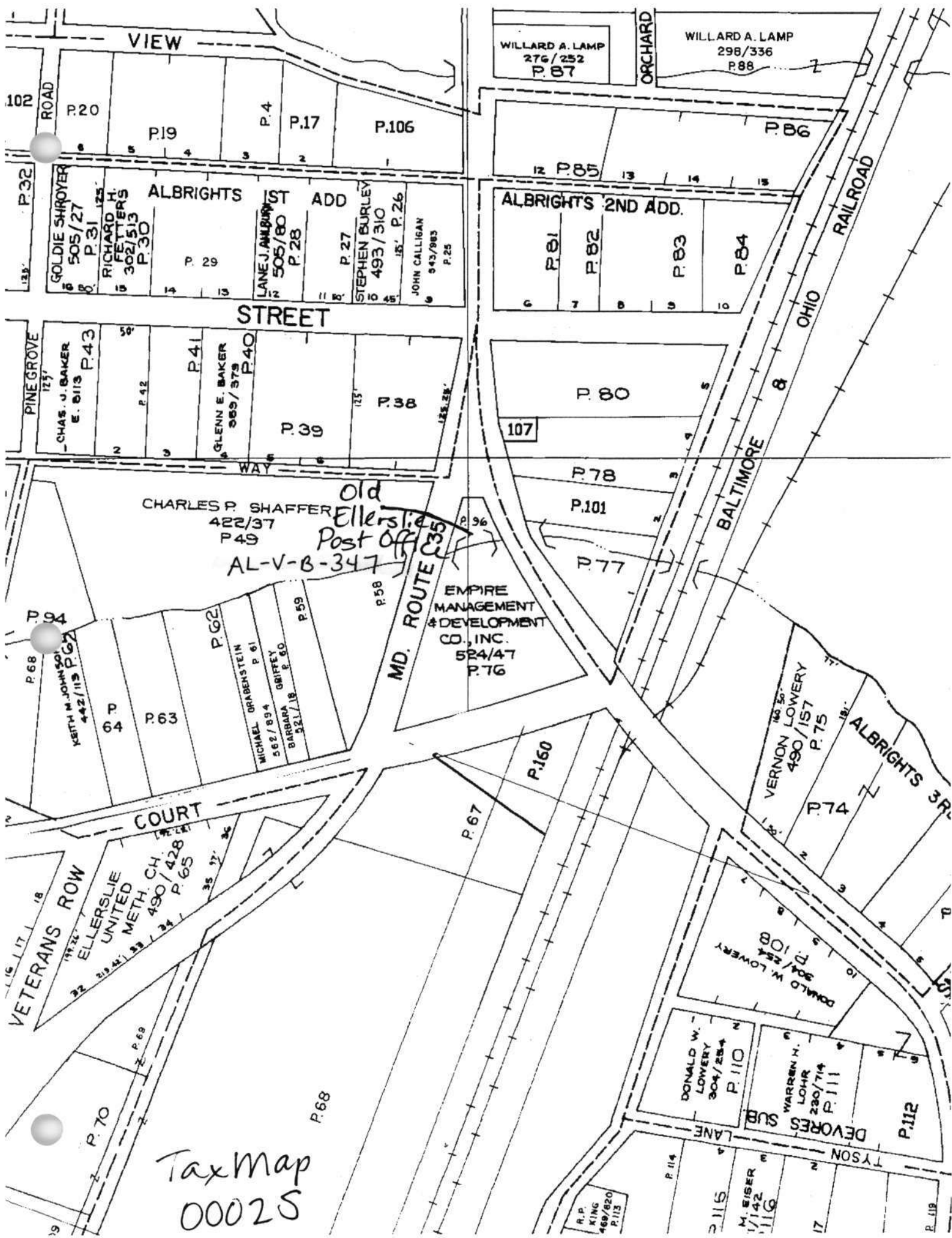
MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

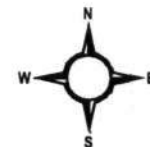
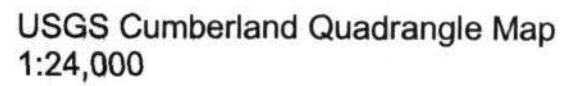
Reviewer, National Register Program

Date



TaxMap
00025

Allegany County



0.8 0 0.8 1.6 Miles



AL-V-B-347

Old Ellerslie Post Office

Allegheny Co., MD

S. Foell

11/2006

MD SHPO

View to the east

003390 6/11 (SRB 11)

5 00 10 10 0-2 12/15/06



AL-V-B-347
Old Ellerslie Post Office
Allegany Co., MD
S. Fell

11/2006

003390 5/11 (SR8 11)

MD SHPO

View to the northeast

4 00 10 10 D-2 12/15/06



AL-V-B-347

Old Ellerslie Post Office

Allegheny Co., MD

S. Foell

11/2006

003390 7 11 (SRB 11)

MD SHPO

View to the southeast

6 00 00 00 0-2 12/15/06



AL-V-B-347

Old Ellerslie Post Office

Allegheny Co., MD

S. Foell

11/2006

003390 8 11 588 11

MD SHPO

View to the South west

7 C0 M0 Y0 D-4 12/15/06

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AL-V-B-347

Old Ellerslie Post Office

Allegheny Co, MD

S. Fell

11/2006

003390 3 11 (5R8 11)

MD SHPO

Detail: Window on south elevation

2 00 10 10 00 12/15/06

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AL-V-B-347

Old Eberslie Post Office

Allegany Co., MD

S. Foe II

003390 2-11 (SP8 41)

11/2006

MD SHPO

Detail: wall and foundation on South
elevation



003390 1/11 <SR8 11>



AL-V-B-347

Old Elersie Post Office

Allegany Co., MD

S. Fell

003390 4 11 (SRB 11)

11/2006

MD SHPO

Streetscape view to the north

7 CB MD 10 11 12/15/06